

## CLAIM AMENDMENTS

Claims 1 through 8 (canceled)

1           9. (Currently amended) A method for desalinating salt-  
2 containing water, which comprises the steps of:

3           (a) passing salt-containing water through a heat  
4 exchanger disposed in a basin containing solar-heated brine formed  
5 by several layers of water lying one above the other in the basin,  
6 each of said layers of water forming the brine having a higher salt  
7 content than the layer present there above, wherein the heat  
8 exchanger is disposed in the lowermost layer of water having a  
9 ~~[[high]]~~ higher temperature than the temperature of the layers of  
10 water lying above the lowermost layer of water;

11           (b) heating the salt-containing water in the basin using  
12 ~~solar energy~~ indirect heat exchange with the solar-heated brine to  
13 obtain heated salt-containing water;

14           (c) evaporating at least part of the heated salt-  
15 containing water to obtain water vapor; and

16           (d) condensing the water vapor to obtain desalinated  
17 water.

Claims 10 and 11 (canceled)

1           12. (Previously presented) The method for desalinating  
2 salt-containing water defined in claim 9 wherein according to step  
3 (a) the water to be desalinated is supplied to the heat exchanger  
4 disposed in the basin from a pit holding the salt-containing water,  
5 in which pit a second heat exchanger is disposed, through which the  
6 condensed desalinated water obtained according to step (d) is  
7 passed to preheat the salt-containing water by indirect heat  
8 exchange.

1           13. (Previously presented) The method for desalinating  
2 salt-containing water defined in claim 9 wherein according to step  
3 (d) the water vapor is condensed in a condenser, in which a cooler  
4 for supplying cool air is connected to the condenser.

1           14. (New) A method for desalinating salt-containing  
2 water, which comprises the steps of:

3           (a) passing salt-containing water through a heat  
4 exchanger disposed in a basin containing solar-heated brine formed  
5 by several layers of water lying one above the other in the basin,  
6 each of said layers of water forming the brine having a higher salt  
7 content than the layer present there above, wherein the heat  
8 exchanger is disposed in the lowermost layer of water forming the  
9 brine having a higher temperature than the temperature of the  
10 layers of water forming the brine lying above the lowermost layer  
11 of water and wherein the brine in the basin contains a lower level

12 of water having a salt content of  $\pm 24\%$ , a middle layer of water  
13 having a salt content of  $\pm 15\%$  and an upper layer of water having a  
14 salt content of  $\pm 0-4\%$ ;

15 (b) heating the salt-containing water in the basin using  
16 indirect heat exchange with the solar-heated brine to obtain heated  
17 salt-containing water;

18 (c) evaporating at least part of the heated salt-  
19 containing water to obtain water vapor; and

20 (d) condensing the water vapor to obtain desalinated  
21 water.

1 15. (New) The method for desalinating salt-containing  
2 water defined in claim 14 wherein each of the layers of water is  
3 formed to a height of  $\pm 1$  m.

1 16. (New) A plant for desalinating salt-containing  
2 water, the plant comprising:

3 (a) a basin containing solar-heated brine formed by  
4 several layers of water lying one above the other in the basin,  
5 each of the layers of water having a higher salt content than the  
6 layer present thereabove;

7 (b) an indirect heat exchanger in the lowermost layer of  
8 water in the basin, having an inlet for receiving the salt-  
9 containing water and an outlet for discharging the salt-containing  
10 water heated by indirect heat exchange;

11           (c) means for supplying the salt-containing water to be  
12 desalinated connected to the inlet in the indirect heat exchanger;  
13 and

14           (d) means for evaporating the heated salt-containing  
15 water discharged from the indirect heat exchanger through the  
16 outlet.

1           17. (New) A plant according to claim 16 wherein the  
2 plant comprises a pit to which the salt-containing water to be  
3 desalinated is supplied and from which the water is carried to the  
4 inlet of the indirect heat exchanger that is disposed in the basin.

1           18. (New) A plant according to claim 16 wherein the  
2 means for evaporating the salt-containing water is connected to a  
3 condenser, and the plant comprises a pump by means of which water  
4 that has condensed in the condenser can be transported to a  
5 receiving basin for the water.